World Bank observations on approach to financial reforms by the Government of India

327. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank team, while expressing happiness over the speedy reforms in trade and industry, .ex-pressed their displeasure over the so-called half hearted approach of Government on reforms in financial sector; and

(b) if so, in what precise circumstances such observations were made and what were their precise comments; and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Only preliminary discussions with the World Bank team have been held so far for a possible structural Adjustment loan which includes reforms in trade, industrial policy, public enterprises and financial sector. As such question of (a) & (b) does not arise at this stage.

Hike in Lending Deposit Rates

328. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately hiked the lending deposit rates, with a view to curbing imports reducing demand and rectifying the balance of payments;

(b) if so, the precise decision taken in the matter; and

(c) the reaction of the trade and industry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

New programme on Aids Control

329. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new AIDS prevention and control programme has been launched or is being pursued by the Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating also the financial provisions made therefor during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The National AIDS Control Programme was started in 19P7. Tbe Programme has been supported by the external fusding agencies such as WHO and USAIT5 also. The activities undertake-- so far include;—

— organising a surveilance system for determining the prevalence and i-fectivity trends in groups practises; high risk behaviour.

— promoting safety of blood and blood products by establishing testing facilities for screening blood in blood banks on a zonal basis.

— health education.

— formulation of guidelines for hospital infection control.

— strengthening of 13 regional hospi tals and training of clinicians and para-medical staff in diagnosis and management of HIV infected pa tients